If any fees are required for any reason relating to the enclosed materials, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct said fees from Fulbright & Jaworski L.L.P. Account No.: 50-1212/UTXC:666US.

I. PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

In the specification:

On page 29, replace the last paragraph, which extends onto page 30, with the following paragraph:

-- Of course, for some applications, for example, where one desires to prepare mutants employing a mutant primer strand hybridized to an underlying template or where one seeks to isolate Osterix encoding sequences from related species, functional equivalents, or the like, less stringent hybridization conditions will typically be needed in order to allow formation of the heteroduplex. In these circumstances, one may desire to employ conditions such as 0.15M-1.0M salt, at temperatures ranging from 20°C to 55°C. Cross-hybridizing species can thereby be readily identified as positively hybridizing signals with respect to control hybridizations. In fact, the inventors have been able to detect a human equivalent for mouse Osterix by Southern hybridization of human cDNA with a sequence of mouse Osterix (SEQ ID NO:6) under a low stringency condition (1M NaCl, 30-45% formamide, 10% dextran sulfate, at 37°C). In any case, it is generally appreciated that conditions can be rendered more stringent by decreasing NaCl concentrations or by the addition of increasing amounts of formamide, which serves to destabilize the hybrid duplex in the same manner as increased temperature. Thus, hybridization conditions can be readily manipulated, and thus will generally be a method of choice depending on the desired results.--

A1

On page 103, replace the last paragraph with the following paragraph:

-- **Purification of anti Osterix antibodies.** Antibodies were created by immunizing rabbits with a 14-amino acid peptide (AHGGSPEQSNLLEI; SEQ ID NO: 3)

A2